
SENATE BILL No. 118

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 20-12-22.2.

Synopsis: Teacher recruitment and retention. Establishes a teacher recruitment and retention grant program, administered by the state student assistance commission, to: (1) attract qualified teachers to those geographical areas of the state where a critical shortage of teachers exists; and (2) retain qualified teachers in teacher shortage areas; by providing scholarships to persons working toward a master's degree in education or an educational specialist degree. Provides that as a condition of participating in the program and receiving a scholarship, a teacher must agree to employment as a licensed teacher in a school district located in a teacher shortage area for a period of at least three years.

Effective: July 1, 2003.

Rogers

January 7, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on Education and Career Development.

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First Regular Session 113th General Assembly (2003)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2002 Regular or Special Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 118

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 20-12-22.2 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2003]:

4 **Chapter 22.2. Teacher Recruitment and Retention Grant**
5 **Program**

6 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "approved institution of higher**
7 **learning" has the meaning set forth in IC 20-12-21-3.**

8 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "commission" refers to the state**
9 **student assistance commission established by IC 20-12-21-4.**

10 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "fund" refers to the teacher**
11 **recruitment and retention grant fund established by section 5 of**
12 **this chapter.**

13 **Sec. 4. (a) The teacher recruitment and retention grant program**
14 **is established. The commission shall administer the program.**

15 **(b) The purpose of the program is to attract additional qualified**
16 **teachers to those geographical areas of the state where a critical**
17 **shortage of teachers exists and to retain the qualified teachers**



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1 already serving as licensed teachers in teacher shortage areas by
 2 making available scholarships to persons working toward a
 3 master's degree in education or an educational specialist degree at
 4 an approved institution of higher learning.

5 **Sec. 5. (a)** The teacher recruitment and retention grant fund is
 6 established to make awards authorized under this chapter to
 7 eligible applicants.

8 **(b)** The fund consists of the following:

9 **(1)** Appropriations made by the general assembly.

10 **(2)** Gifts, grants, devises, or bequests made to the state in
 11 order to achieve the purposes of the fund.

12 **(c)** The fund shall be administered by the commission. The
 13 expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from money in the
 14 fund.

15 **(d)** The fund shall be separate and distinct from other funds
 16 administered by the commission. Money in the fund may not be
 17 exchanged with or transferred to other funds.

18 **(e)** The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not
 19 currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same
 20 manner as other public funds are invested. Interest that accrues
 21 from those investments shall be deposited in the fund.

22 **(f)** Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not
 23 revert to the state general fund.

24 **Sec. 6. (a)** An approved institution of higher learning located in
 25 Indiana that offers a master's degree in education or an
 26 educational specialist degree may apply to the commission for
 27 participation in the program.

28 **(b)** As part of the program, participating institutions shall
 29 collaborate with the commission to identify, recruit, and place
 30 teacher education graduates, from both within and outside
 31 Indiana, in school districts located in areas of Indiana where a
 32 critical shortage of teachers exists, as determined by the
 33 commission.

34 **Sec. 7. (a)** The commission shall provide grants from the fund to
 35 participating institutions of higher learning for the purpose of
 36 awarding scholarships to qualified persons pursuing a master's
 37 degree in education or an educational specialist degree at the
 38 institutions while rendering service as a licensed teacher in a school
 39 district in a geographical area of the state where a critical shortage
 40 of teachers exists.

41 **(b)** A scholarship awarded under this chapter shall be applied
 42 to the total cost for tuition, books, materials, and fees at the

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1 institution in which the student is enrolled, not to exceed an
 2 amount equal to the highest total cost of tuition, books, materials,
 3 and fees assessed by a state institution of higher learning during
 4 that school year. A teacher who relocates to Indiana from another
 5 state in order to participate in the program shall be classified as a
 6 resident of Indiana for tuition purposes.

7 (c) To qualify for a scholarship under this chapter, a person
 8 must:

9 (1) be admitted to an approved institution of higher learning
 10 as a full-time or part-time student pursuing a master's degree
 11 in education or an educational specialist degree;

12 (2) agree, in writing, to the employment requirements under
 13 section 12 of this chapter; and

14 (3) meet any criteria established by the commission.

15 Sec. 8. (a) Persons awarded scholarships under the grant
 16 program established by this chapter may receive the scholarships
 17 for not more than four (4) school years. However, the maximum
 18 number of scholarships that may be made to a student may not
 19 exceed the length of time required to complete the number of
 20 academic hours necessary to obtain a master's degree in education
 21 or an educational specialist degree.

22 (b) Scholarships under the grant program may not be based
 23 upon an applicant's eligibility for financial aid.

24 Sec. 9. In addition to a scholarship awarded under this chapter,
 25 an eligible person relocating to a geographical area of the state
 26 where a critical shortage of teachers exists, as determined by the
 27 commission, to participate in the grant program under this chapter
 28 is eligible for reimbursement from the fund for the person's
 29 moving expenses to the critical teacher shortage area. The
 30 commission shall adopt rules necessary for the administration of
 31 the relocation expense reimbursement component of the grant
 32 program under this chapter.

33 Sec. 10. The commission may use money in the fund for
 34 professional development and support services as may be necessary
 35 for the retention of teachers participating in the program in those
 36 geographical areas of the state where a critical shortage of teachers
 37 exists.

38 Sec. 11. A person participating in the program who fails to
 39 complete a program of study that will enable that person to obtain
 40 a master's degree in education or educational specialist degree is
 41 liable to the commission for the sum of all awards made to that
 42 person under the program, plus interest accruing at the current



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1 federal Stafford Loan rate at the time the person abrogates the
2 person's participation in the program.

3 Sec. 12. (a) As a condition for participation in the program, a
4 teacher shall agree to employment as a licensed teacher in a school
5 district located in a geographical area of the state where a critical
6 shortage of teachers exists, for a period of at least three (3) years,
7 which shall include those years of service rendered while obtaining
8 the master's degree in education or educational specialist degree.

9 (b) Service rendered by a participant as a licensed teacher in a
10 school district in a geographical critical teacher shortage area
11 before that teacher becomes a participant in the program may not
12 be considered to have fulfilled the employment commitment
13 required under this section.

14 (c) A person failing to comply with the employment commitment
15 in any required school year is immediately in breach of contract
16 and becomes liable immediately to the commission for the sum of
17 all scholarships awarded and relocation expenses granted to that
18 person, less one-third (1/3) of the amount of that sum for each year
19 that service was rendered, plus interest accruing at the current
20 federal Stafford Loan rate at the time the breach occurs. However,
21 the commission may defer any repayments required by this section
22 for the person's failure to comply with the employment
23 commitment if there is no employment position immediately
24 available upon the teacher's obtaining of the master's degree in
25 education or educational specialist degree. After the period of the
26 deferral, the person shall begin or resume the required teaching
27 duties or shall become liable to the board under this subsection.

28 Sec. 13. (a) The commission shall maintain complete and
29 accurate records in implementing the grant program, including the
30 following:

- 31 (1) The number and amount of scholarships awarded under
32 this chapter.
- 33 (2) The number of persons completing a master's degree in
34 education or an educational specialist degree under the
35 program.
- 36 (3) The number of individuals who fulfill the employment
37 requirements under this chapter.

38 (b) Each participating institution shall provide the commission
39 with information concerning the following:

- 40 (1) The awarding of scholarships under this chapter.
- 41 (2) The academic progress made by each recipient of a
42 scholarship under this chapter.

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1 **(3) Other pertinent information requested by the commission.**

2 **Sec. 14. The commission may allow an approved institution of**
3 **higher learning to act as its agent in accepting applications from,**
4 **determining eligibility for, and making awards to eligible**
5 **applicants of the approved institution of higher learning. The**
6 **institution of higher learning shall provide to the commission on a**
7 **timely basis any information, reports, and accounting the**
8 **commission requires.**

9 **Sec. 15. The commission may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2**
10 **necessary to carry out this chapter, including rules governing the**
11 **enforcement of any employment requirements and repayment**
12 **requirements.**

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